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NEX01/C8  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: GOLD ET AL. )  
SERIAL NO.: 10/037,986 )  
FILED: OCTOBER 18, 2001 )  
FOR: NUCLEIC ACID LIGANDS )

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#7  
Pre-amend  
a

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Dear Sir:

In regard to the referenced application, Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendment.

**AMENDMENT**

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel claim 1 and add the following new claims:

2. (New) A method for identifying a nucleic acid binding protein's binding site on a region of a DNA or RNA, comprising:
- providing a nucleic acid ligand to a nucleic acid binding protein;
  - contacting said nucleic acid ligand with a mixture of said nucleic acid binding protein and said DNA or RNA region; and
  - determining whether said added nucleic acid ligand blocks said protein from binding to said region, whereby the presence of said nucleic acid ligand assists in the identification of the DNA or RNA regulatory region.

37 CFR 1.8  
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on 12/26/02

Signature: Tasha L. Cove  
Name: Tasha L. Cove